

Monthly Newsletter

March 2024



MARCH SPOTLIGHT



Meet NVTAC's Training and Technical Assistance Coaches



Sarah Chung

Sarah has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the areas of housing and homelessness. She has spent her professional life with nonprofits assisting homeless veterans, youth, families, and LGBTQ+ individuals, and advocating for their interests through policy development. She has experience in every role: outreach worker, case manager, resource navigator, etc. Sarah joined NVTAC as a Coach in May 2022. She loves working with HVRP grant recipients to brainstorm solutions that address the unique challenges of homelessness systems and direct service provision, both of which she has experienced throughout her career.



Chris Taylor

Chris is a U.S. Army veteran committed to serving other veterans in need. For over 10 years, he worked with veterans in both higher education and those experiencing homelessness, including as an HVRP Program Manager. He was also a member of his local Veterans Commission and Veterans Community Action Team. He joined NVTAC as a Coach in August 2023 to continue his mission. For Chris, the best thing about being a Coach is helping HVRP grant recipients remove barriers to employment for an often-overlooked population of veterans, and seeing suggested strategies yield success for grantees and the veterans they serve.



Temitope Fagbemi

Temitope is a dedicated frontline worker. He has experience serving communities impacted by crime, trauma, domestic violence and homelessness, is an expert at fostering collaboration among federal, state, and local agencies to achieve the goal of supporting families and has a vast knowledge of housing resources. Temitope joined NVTAC in October 2023 as a Coach. For him, the most rewarding things about being a Coach are having thought-provoking discussions, creating and sharing innovative best practices, and seeing the collaboration between grantee and Coach yield positive results to advance the field of veteran services.

What is a Training and Technical Assistance Coach?

The National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS) to provide training and technical assistance (T/TA) to the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs (HVRPs), and others who are committed to helping veterans experiencing homelessness find employment.

Training and Technical Assistance (TA) Coaches provide this one-on-one, individualized technical assistance to grant recipients. If you are interested in receiving support from a TA Coach, contact us at contact@nvtac.org.

EVENTS

Community of Practice

March 2024



NVTAC's March Community of Practice (CoP)

Please join us on **Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. ET** for [March's CoP session](#). The CoP will be a feedback session for the [HVRP Customizable Forms](#) available on the NVTAC website. During the session, attendees will have the opportunity to share their thoughts, feedback, and suggestions for additions, which NVTAC will use to update the available forms.



Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Webinar Offers Mentorship and Advice

VR&E will host their "Heart to Hand – Mentoring the Brave!" [Virtual Webinar](#) on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024, from 1:00pm - 2:30pm ET**. This webinar will feature mentors providing advice on business relationships, navigating organizational dynamics, networking into a new career, and more. Guests from American Corporate Partners, Hire Heroes USA, NextGen, and their business partners/mentees will also join to educate you on their programs.



Look Out for a Stand Down Event Near You!

Stand Downs are one- to three-day events that offer supplies and services to homeless and at-risk Veterans. During a Stand Down, Veterans are provided food, clothing, and health screenings on site, and can also receive referrals for assistance with health care, mental health counseling, housing solutions, employment support, and more. These events are an excellent way for HVRP grantees to further support Veterans and inform the community about their services.

Learn more about how to apply for [DOL-VETS funding](#) to host a Stand Down. Learn more about participating in an already funded, upcoming Stand Down, on the [VA's Stand Down calendar of events](#).

RESOURCES



[VA Expands Access to Health Care](#)

As of March 5, 2024, all veterans exposed to toxins and other hazards during military service are eligible for VA health care. This includes all veterans who served in the

Vietnam War, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11, and these veterans will be eligible to enroll directly in care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or other hazards while training or on active duty will be eligible to enroll. This expansion of coverage eliminates the "phased-in approach" of the PACT Act and makes millions of veterans eligible for VA care up to eight years earlier than written in the law. Eligible veterans can learn more and apply for VA health care by visiting the [PACT Act website](#) or calling 1-800-MYVA411.



Pennsylvania's Outreach Vans Bring Essential Services to Veterans Statewide

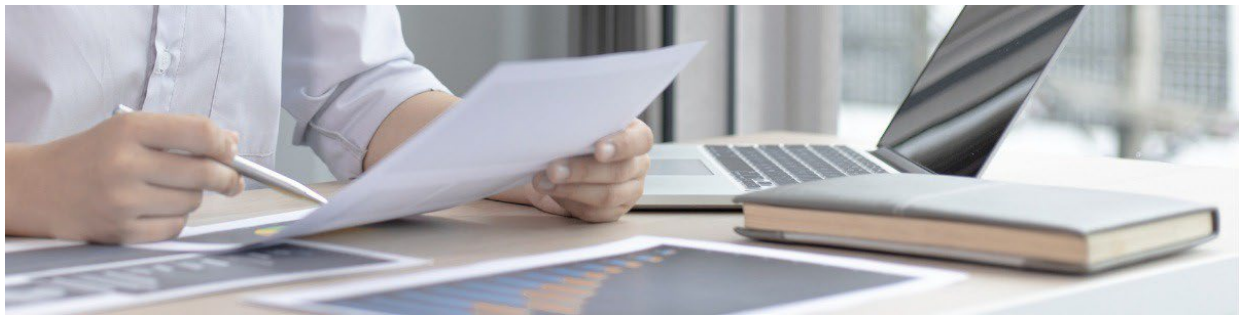
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) recently announced its Mobile Veterans Outreach Vans will be available across the state. These vans offer on-site, free of charge assistance initiating benefit claim paperwork with a DMVA-accredited veteran service officer at community events. In addition to mobile services, the DMVA outreach teams work within communities to create connections and link veterans to essential services. By bringing services directly to veterans, the DMVA is reducing barriers and making it easier for veterans to access support and the benefits they have earned.

NEWS UPDATES



Feedback on the CHALENG Survey Helps VA Enhance Services for Homeless Veterans

The VA's "Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups" for veterans, referred to as Project CHALENG, brings together service providers, advocates, veterans, and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless Veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action. To know what tools are needed to address veteran homelessness, and when those needs change, the VA utilizes the CHALENG Survey, in which participants rate the needs of homeless veterans in their communities. As a result of the survey and the unmet needs it uncovered, the VA has built thousands of relationships with community providers and developed new services for veterans to support their evolving challenges. The VA encourages participation in the survey from currently or formerly homeless veterans, community-based homelessness assistance providers, and more.



VA Signs the 4+1 Commitment to Support Employment for Military Spouses

March 6th, 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) signed the 4+1 Commitment. Developed by Blue Star Families, Hiring Our Heroes, and the Department of Defense's Military Spouse Employment Partnership, the 4+1 Commitment is a voluntary commitment by employers to adopt at least one policy to expand employment opportunities for military spouses, including: 1) facilitate job transferability; 2) offer remote or telework; 3) offer flexible work hours; 4) provide paid or permissive Permanent Change of Station (PCS) leave. This effort is part of President Biden's Executive Order 14100, which details a plan to address unemployment for the 16,000+ military connected spouses in the federal workforce.



[Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency \(MVAA\) to Award \\$2 million in State Grants to Help Homeless Veterans](#)

The MVAA will distribute \$2 million in state grants to 13 non-profit organizations (approximately \$150,000 per grant) to support homeless veterans and their families. The grants will be used for a variety of initiatives, for example, creating a four-unit transitional housing complex in the Upper Peninsula. These grants are vital to addressing and preventing veteran homelessness in Michigan as, according to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), there were 1,657 homeless veterans in the state in 2023, with this figure representing only veterans who received services. MVAA Director Brian L. Love stated that "To prevent veteran homelessness, it's critically important to connect veterans to the resources they need to thrive, whether that health care, emergency assistance, education benefits or help finding and keeping a good job." For more information on the FY24 grant recipients and how they will use the grant funding, click "Learn More" below.

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SUCCESS STORY

Do you have a success story you would like to share? If you are a grantee who helped a veteran who is struggling with housing or employment, we would love to hear from you at contact@nvtac.org.



Outreach at NVTAC

The NVTAC Outreach Coach is available to provide information, answer questions, and guide interested organizations through the process of getting involved with HVRP. If you know of organizations that could benefit from learning more about HVRP, you can refer them to NVTAC Outreach Coach Miranda Moffat at:

Moffat.Miranda.M@dol.gov
(734) 406-7525

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